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REMARKS

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Claims 1 and 5-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 12 stand allowed. Claims 7-10, 13-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected. Claims 18 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 17, and 19 are being amended. Claims 16 and 18 are being cancelled. Claims 22 and 23 are being added. No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments.

Claim 1 is being amended to make clear that, in the embodiment being claimed, the first and second multi-channel echo cancellers include first and second signal processors, respectfully. Claim 1 is also being amended to make clear that, in the embodiment being claimed, the first and second signal processors perform a signal processing function that includes echo cancellation. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments have no effect on the allowable subject matter contained in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered.

The remarks hereinbelow describe base claims being amended with limitations of objected to dependent claims. After entry of the Claim Listing above, all claims will include allowable subject matter.

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,402) (hereinafter "Yue").

The Office Action at page 12, item 9 states:

Claim[s] 1 is allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly disclose the first multi-channel echo canceller including a tone disabler circuit for detecting the presence of an echo canceller disabling tone within each channel and producing said logical signal in response thereto.

As stated above, claims 18 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 13), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (claim 13) and any intervening claims (claims 16 and 17). Although claim 18 depends from claim 17, Applicants respectfully point out that intervening claim 17 does not include the allowable subject matter stated above and its limitations are not required for claim 18 to depend from claim 13. Accordingly, base claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 16 and 18 absent the limitations of claim 17. Applicants respectfully

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submit that the rejection of claim 13 is now moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 18 are being cancelled.

Claims 17 and 19 are being amended to depend from now amended base claim 13. Since claims 17 and 19 depend from now amended claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 19 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as described above with respect to base claim 13.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wintour (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,098), in view of Pruett et al. (U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H1,884) ("Pruett"), in further view of Yue.

Claim 7 is being amended to include limitations directed to the allowable subject matter at page 12, item 9 of the Office Action. In particular, claim 7 is being amended to recite

"monitoring a state condition of echo cancellation, including detecting the presence of an echo canceller disabling tone, in each channel; producing a logical signal indicating whether echo cancellation is enabled on each channel in response to detecting the presence of an echo canceller disabling tone in each channel."

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of base claim 7 is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of base claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 depends from now amended base claim 7; therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as described above with respect to base claim 7.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pruett, in view of Wintour, in further view of Yue.

As with claim 7, claim 9 is being amended to include limitations directed to the allowable subject matter at page 12, item 9 of the Office Action. In particular, claim 9 is being amended to recite

"a first controller configured for monitoring a state of echo cancellation, including detecting the presence of an echo canceller disabling tone, on each channel, the first controller configured for producing a logical signal indicating whether echo cancellation is enabled on each channel in response to detecting the presence of an echo canceller disabling tone."

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Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of base claim 9 is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 depends from now amended base claim 9; therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as described above with respect to base claim 9.

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yue, in view of Wintour.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from now amended base claim 13; therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20 and 21 should be allowed for at least the same reasons as described above with respect to base claim 13.

New claims 22 and 23 are being added to depend from base claim 7 to claim the manner in which the signal processing parameter may be generated according to an embodiment of the present invention. Support can be found in the specification as originally filed at least at page 5 lines 8 through 17. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims (claims 1, 5-15, 17, 19-23) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Mark B. Solomon
Mark B. Solomon
Registration No. 44,348
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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